

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PRS-01 SIG-02 HA-05 AID-05
OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USLO PEKING PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY
CINCPAC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SHUM, CB, US
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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF REMARKS PERTAINING TO CAMBODIA
MADE BY ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ON JANUARY 18 DURING
A SPEECH BEFORE THE NATIONAL MEDIA CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON.

BEGIN TEXT: WHILE THERE IS NOT TIME FOR A REVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS AROUND THE WORLD, I DO WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO WHAT IS AMONG THE MOST FLAGRANT AND MASSIVE ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO BE FOUND IN THE WORLD TODAY, THAT IN CAMBODIA.

NO ONE OUTSIDE CAMBODIA CAN KNOW THE FULL DIMENSIONS OF THE SYSTEMATIC TERROR AND GRINDING DOWN OF THE CAMBODIAN PEOPLE WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE UNDER THOSE WHO HAVE SEIZED POWER THERE. THE MANY DETAILED FIRSTHAND REPORTS FROM THE STREAM OF REFUGEES FLEEING THAT COUNTRY PROVIDE A PICTURE OF A REGIME BENT ON DESTROYING VIRTUALLY EVERY VESTIGE OF THE EXISTING SOCIETY IN ORDER TO IMPOSE ITS WILL UPON THE POPULATION. HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS -- NOT ONLY SUPPORTERS OF THE FORMER REGIME, BUT PEOPLE FROM ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY -- HAVE PERISHED UNDER THIS REGIME.

WHILE THE UNITED STATES HAS NO RELATIONSHIP WHATSOEVER WITH CAMBODIA, WE CONDEMN WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE THERE AND WILL TAKE EVERY SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OUT, LEST BY OUR SILENCE WE SEEM TO ACQUIESCE IN THE UNSPEAKABLE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES THAT ARE OCCURRING THERE. MOREOVER, WE WILL BE SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THIS EGREGIOUS SITUATION. END TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED (IF ASKED) BY
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DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN.

QUESTION: ON JANUARY 18, ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER CONDEMNED "MASSIVE ABUSES" OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA. IS THIS AN INDICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES IS BEGINNING TO SIDE WITH VIETNAM IN ITS BORDER CONFLICT WITH CAMBODIA?

ANSWER: AS WE HAVE MADE CLEAR BEFORE, THE UNITED STATES TAKES NO POSITION WHATSOEVER WITH REGARD TO THE SITUATION BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. WE HAVE STATED FREQUENTLY THAT THIS ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO SPEAK OUT ON APPROPRIATE OCCASIONS WHEN IT FEELS HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING ABUSED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. MR. CHRISTOPHER'S REMARKS ON CAMBODIA STAND ON THEIR OWN.
CHRISTOPHER

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Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA
TAGS: SHUM, CB, US
To: PARIS MOSCOW MULTIPLE
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